

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## ELIMINATING THE MINIMUM WAGE

**HON. RON PACKARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, the minimum wage should be eliminated. Government has no business determining a person's worth in the job market. If you force a business to pay more than a person is worth, somebody else is going to be paid less than they are worth to compensate for that person's job. Worker wages should be determined by competitive market forces, not Government imposed mandates.

President Clinton's proposed 21 percent wage hike represents a powerful blow to the low skilled and young wage earners of America—the bulk of the minimum wage population. Legislation to raise the minimum wage is no answer to poverty. Instead, it will increase poverty. Economists agree that raising the minimum wage would instantly eliminate tens of thousands of jobs. The minimum wage is a tax on labor and, more importantly, a tax on hiring.

Increasing the cost of labor and hiring makes it difficult for small businesses—the engine for job creation—to hire new workers. The minimum wage slams shut the window of opportunity. It denies thousands of potential young, low-skilled workers the opportunity to better themselves and contribute to their communities.

Government exists to serve the needs of the people. A federally imposed minimum wage increase works against the needs of American workers and small businesses—shrinking the job base while raising costs. Our economy functions best when left alone, not when meddled with by Government bureaucrats.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1360—  
KOSOVA PEACE, DEMOCRACY,  
AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 1995

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, recent events in Bosnia have demonstrated how little regard the Serbs have for the views of the international community. Their complete disregard for the mandates and requirements of the U.N. Security Council, and indeed for the norms of civilized behavior as they carry out their plan for an ethnically cleansed Greater Serbia raises concern for the region of Kosova with its population of nearly 2 million ethnic Albanians.

Prior to 1989, under the constitutional arrangements of the former Yugoslavia Kosova enjoyed an autonomous status in which the Albanian majority enjoyed many of the fruits of self-government. Public institutions such as schools, hospitals, and the police were con-

trolled by the local population. In 1989, however, as Serbian President Milosevic sought to consolidate his grasp on power he exploited ancient Serbian sensitivities on the status of Kosova as an excuse for annulling Kosova's autonomous status by illegally altering the Yugoslav Constitution, and subsequently replacing Albanian personnel in the educational, health, and law enforcement systems in Kosova with Serbs.

Almost 2 years ago, Serbian authorities refused to renew visas for a team of CSCE monitors that had been dispatched to Kosova to keep an eye on human rights abuses committed by the Serbian authorities. The Serbs have remained intransigent in refusing to grant visas for human rights monitors despite urgent appeals from the United States and most members of the European Union and other concerned countries. They have also refused to comply with U.N. Security Council Resolution 855 which required Serbia to permit international human rights monitors into Kosova. Since the departure of international monitors last summer human rights abuses have nearly doubled, according to reports from the Kosovar Albanian community, with a number of its leading personalities driven into exile for fear for their lives.

Accordingly, on behalf of the gentlemen and gentelady from New York, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. MOLINARI and Mr. KING, the gentleman from California, Mr. ROHRBACHER, and the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. SMITH, I am today introducing H.R. 1360, entitled the "Kosova Peace, Democracy and Human Rights Act of 1995." This bill links lifting of the U.N. economic sanctions against Serbia—to a resolution of the deplorable human rights situation in Kosova, and requests the administration to submit a report within 60 days of enactment on its recommendations on ways to implement international protection for the rights of the majority of the Kosovar population. In so doing, I do not believe that this is an issue in which the United States should seek to act alone. We should consult with our allies in Europe and with other members of the Security Council because this is an issue in which they too have an important stake. I do hope that this measure will help to focus the administration on the issue of Kosova as it seeks to bring the conflict in Bosnia to conclusion. I do not believe that ignoring or omitting the situation in Kosova, wherein millions of people are daily subject to harsh and brutal denial of the most basic and fundamental human rights, will contribute to long-term stability in the Balkans.

I want to acknowledge with deep appreciation the role of my colleagues, Mr. ENGEL and Ms. MOLINARI, cofounders of the Albanian Issues Caucus, who have done so much to keep the issue of Kosova before the Congress and the American people. This bill reflects their efforts, and support for the rights of the citizens of Kosova, and I am pleased to be able to introduce this measure on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, I hereby request that the full text of H.R. 1360, the Kosova Peace, Democracy, and Human Rights Act of 1995, be included at this point in the RECORD.

H.R. 1360

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Kosova Peace, Democracy, and Human Rights Act of 1995".

### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The Constitution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, adopted in 1946, and the amended Constitution of Yugoslavia, adopted in 1974, described the status of Kosova as one of the eight constituent territorial units of the Yugoslav Federation.

(2) The political rights of the Albanian majority in Kosova were curtailed when the Government of Yugoslavia illegally amended the Constitution of Yugoslavia without the consent of the people of Kosova on March 23, 1989, revoking the autonomous status of Kosova.

(3) In 1990, the Parliament and Government of Kosova were abolished by further unlawful amendments to the Constitution of Yugoslavia.

(4) In September 1990, a referendum on the question of independence for Kosova was held in which 87 percent of those eligible to participate voted and 99 percent of those voting supported independence for Kosova.

(5) In May 1992, a Kosovar national parliament was elected and Dr. Ibrahim Rugova was overwhelmingly elected President of the Republic of Kosova.

(6) The Parliament and Government of Kosova were not permitted to assemble in Kosova.

(7) Credible reports of Serbian "ethnic cleansing" in Kosova have been received by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights, and in January 1995, Serbia announced a new policy to colonize Albanian land in Kosova.

(8) Over 100,000 ethnic Albanians in government, police, the judiciary, enterprises, media, educational institutions, and hospitals of Kosova have been removed from their jobs and replaced by Serbians.

(9) The government in Belgrade has severely restricted the access of ethnic Albanians in Kosova to all levels of education, especially education in the Albanian language, solely on the basis of their ethnicity.

(10) Reports of arrests and brutal beatings by the mostly Servian police, sometimes leading to the death of ethnic Albanians in Kosova for expressing views in opposition to Servian authorities, are received almost daily.

(11) Observers of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe dispatched to Kosova in 1991 were expelled by the government in Belgrade in July 1993.

(12) The Government of Serbia has ignored United Nations Security Council Resolution 855 of August 1993, which calls upon Belgrade to allow the continuation of the mission of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe and to guarantee the safety of and unimpeded access for monitors of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

(13) Following the departure of such observers, several international human rights

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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